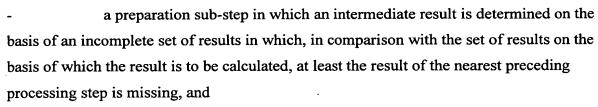CLAIMS:

1.   A method of processing a temporal series of processing steps, a processing step generating a result on the basis of a set of results of certain preceding processing steps, which method is characterized in that a processing step is performed in two sub-steps:

-         a preparation sub-step in which an intermediate result is determined on the basis of an incomplete set of results in which, in comparison with the set of results on the basis of which the result is to be calculated, at least the result of the nearest preceding processing step is missing, and

-         a finishing sub-step in which the result is determined on the basis of the intermediate result and of the result of the nearest preceding processing step and other results which are missing in the incomplete set of results, if any.

2.   A data processing arrangement for carrying out a temporal series of processing steps, a processing step generating a result on the basis of a set of results of certain preceding processing steps, which arrangement is characterized in that it is adapted to carry out a processing step is performed by means of two processors:

-         a preparation processing for determining an intermediate result on the basis of an incomplete set of results in which, in comparison with the set of results on the basis of which the result is to be calculated, at least the result of the nearest preceding processing step is missing, and

-         a finishing processor for determining the result on the basis of the intermediate result and of the result of the nearest preceding processing step and other results which are missing in the incomplete set of results, if any.

3.   A "computer program" product for a data processing arrangement, the "computer program" product comprising a set of instructions which, when loaded into the data processing arrangement, causes this arrangement to carry out a temporal series of processing steps, a processing step generating a result on the basis of a set of results of certain preceding processing steps, a processing step being performed in two sub-steps:

-       a preparation sub-step in which an intermediate result is determined on the basis of an incomplete set of results in which, in comparison with the set of results on the basis of which the result is to be calculated, at least the result of the nearest preceding processing step is missing, and

5   -   a finishing sub-step in which the result is determined on the basis of the intermediate result and of the result of the nearest preceding processing step and other results which are missing in the incomplete set of results, if any.

4.   A method of shape decoding in the form of a temporal series of decoding

10   steps, a decoding step generating a Boolean value on the basis of a set of Boolean values of certain preceding decoding steps, which method is characterized in that a decoding step is performed in two sub-steps:

-       a preparation sub-step in which a set of possible probabilities is determined on the basis of an incomplete set of Boolean values in which, in comparison with the set of

15   Boolean values on the basis of which the Boolean value is to be calculated, at least the Boolean value of the nearest preceding decoding step is missing, and

-       a finishing sub-step in which the Boolean value is determined on the basis of the set of Boolean values and of the Boolean value of the nearest preceding decoding step and other Boolean values which are missing in the incomplete set of Boolean values, if any.